

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Information is gotten which indicates the number of pixels composing every frame represented by an input signal indicative of a sequence of pictures including bidirectionally predictive coded  
5 pictures. A desired decoding picture rate is set in response to a predetermined decoding capability and the pixel number. A part of the input signal which is indicative of at least one among the bidirectionally predictive coded pictures is discarded in response to the desired decoding picture rate, and hence a non-discarded part  
10 of the input signal is generated. The non-discarded part of the input signal is decoded into a first decoding-resultant signal at a decoding picture rate equal to the desired decoding picture rate. A decoding-resultant signal portion corresponding to the discarded part of the input signal is interpolated in response to the first  
15 decoding-resultant signal. The interpolated decoding-resultant signal portion and the first decoding-resultant signal are combined into a reproduced signal.

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